Acts. 143

Assembly-Men, Clergymen, Magistrates, Sheriffs, Practising At-Session torneys, Physicians, Clerks, School-Masters, Constables, and Over-Laws seers of the High Way.

And Provided Also, That no Person shall be liable to any Penalty, or Forfeiture, for not taking the Oaths to the Government.

And for the Encouragement of the Persons nominated and appointed as aforesaid, for examining and numbering the Plants of Tobacco, and for cutting down and destroying Slips and Suckers, in Pursuance of this Act.

Be It Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That there shall be levied on the Taxable Persons, in each County, (during the Continuance of this Act,) Five Pounds of Tobacco for every Six Thousand Plants, and proportionably for a less or greater Quantity, which shall be tended and left standing within the said County, to be distributed to the respective Persons, appointed by this Act to view and number the Plants of Tobacco, in Proportion to the Number of Plants viewed and numbered by them in their respective Precincts; which said Five Pounds of Tobacco, the Court of each County within this Province, is hereby impowered and required to assess on the Taxable Inhabitants; and the Sheriff of the County to levy and pay the same to the several Persons to whom the same shall be due, in the Parish wherein they respectively reside, unless such Person shall be content to take the same in some other Parish within the County. And for every Hundred of Tobacco-Stalks which shall have any Suckers or Slips growing thereon, Nine Inches long, which such Person or Persons shall so cut up and destroy, there shall be paid to him or them, by the Owner of such Tobacco-Stalks, or his, or her Overseer, Twenty Pounds of Tobacco; and so proportionably, for a lesser Quantity; to be recovered, with Costs, before any Justice p. 6 of the Peace of the County, wherein the said Tobacco-Stalks shall be so cut up.

And for the better Direction of the Persons appointed for numbering the Plants of Tobacco, Be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Person nominated and sworn in each Precinct, shall repair to the several Plantations, and there take the Number of Tobacco-Plants, by counting the several Plants contained in every respective Piece of Tobacco Ground, in the best Manner, and by such Methods and Rules, as in his Judgment may best discover the true Quantity, having Regard to regular and irregular Pieces of Tobacco-Ground; such Person not being obliged to count such Tobacco-Plants, Plant by Plant, unless he shall think fit so to do.

And if, at any Time hereafter, any more Plants of Tobacco, than are hereby allowed, shall, by the Persons appointed to view and number the same as aforesaid, be found planted or tended on any Plantation or Plantations whatsoever, the Owner, or Overseer of such Plantation or Plantations, shall immediately, in the Presence of the